Between the Lines

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CHARLES A. WELLS, *Editor and Publisher* GRACE LOZIER, *Ass't Editor*

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Radicalism and America

The Christian layman, whatever he thinks of capitalism, socialism and such, should know how socialism and communism rank as influences in America and where that influence is greatest. As tension continues to grow between our leaders of capitalism and the widening socialistic forces over the world, more and more propaganda will be poured upon the American people.

The Socialists

We have a Socialist Party in America but its influence has been small. Norman Thomas, a man of high character and great ability, an ordained Protestant minister, has headed the Socialists for years. He is highly regarded personally by his most outspoken political or capitalistic opponents. Mr. Thomas' unusual ability and integrity have won thousands to socialist thought, but many of these thousands have yet to vote for the party. In university and cultural circles great numbers of people are socialistically minded and many supported Roosevelt's New Deal economic theories. Of these, however, few have voted for the Socialist Party. This is chiefly due to the fact that so far the evolution of the Democratic Party has followed the lines of progressive socialization to such a degree as to forestall the growth of a strong socialist political movement as such,—this in spite of the New Deal's strange marriage to southern plantation reactionarianism. Whether this socialist trend in the Democratic Party is to continue is probably a question which now fills the mind of President Truman.

The Communists

Communism has not really got far in America. In education it has little foothold, in youth organizations it reaches very few. Politically it is negligible, but its strength in the labor movement becomes an important factor, chiefly in some of the CIO unions. AFL leadership has traditionally been anti-Russian and anti-communism, although quite a large number of AFL members have not always agreed with

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LOOK AT MAN with his selfishness and deceit, his refusal to learn from history. One can soon become pessimistic. That's why cynics, who leave God out, are always such sour souls. But watch how God continues to oversee the progress of His divine purposes, drawing unto Himself for glorious fulfillment all men who will surrender to His will. Then one quickly becomes optimistic. We can serve divine purpose best if we know what men are doing . . . but keep our eyes on God!

X-Ray and Forecast

Strikes

The strike news in press and radio is still being used as a smoke screen to keep public attention from America's real problem. The strikes are serious, of course, but so is the unemployment of three million people. Both business and government experts forecast that there will be eight million or more out of work by the time reconversion and demobilization get in full swing.

The press is making a major issue of strikes, but to millions of common people unemployment is the big issue. That is why labor leaders are getting tough. Some labor leaders are hard-boiled and ruthless as are some large business leaders. Some labor leaders are unscrupulous, but they are combatting economic practices that should have been changed years ago. So we are seeing the beginning of a head-on, free-for-all fight to determine the control of economic policies of the future. Temporary compromises or settlement on the present 30 per cent wage increase now demanded by unions are likely, but a study of labor periodicals and of the reports we have received from listening posts in labor's ranks indicate that the big unions are going to keep fighting on an ever-increasing scale until they get what they want, including acceptance of the annual wage principle, a higher share in the benefits of production, greater health benefits, retirement benefits—a whole scaling upward of the workers' place and rewards in industry.

Business Views the Problem

Big business ranks are split on this situation. As we have reported in recent issues, many younger executives and managers of some of the largest industries are for going along with labor. They frankly admit that profit margins are sufficiently large to permit substantial wage increases. They also believe the American economy must now become a high-wage, high-consumption, lower profit and faster turn-over economy as over against the low wage, restricted production and higher profit economy of the past. But the fifty or sixty big boys in the financial citadels of Wall Street who own or control directly or indirectly most of American industry won't give in. Eric Johnston, able, brilliant, progressive former president of the United States Chamber of Commerce, quit in disgust a few weeks ago because he saw that all his effort had made no dent on this industrial hierarchy of America. The public knows nothing ot this struggle within the ranks of big business.

But as we forecast last week, if a transformation of attitude on the part of the large business leadership is not soon evidenced, there will be increasing labor disturbances, reaching higher crescendos of action as demobilization advances. The spring of 1946 will see it. And then when unemployment insurance benefits for veterans and war workers begin to run out the climax will come.

The Motive

Labor leadership is guilty of many faults and failures, and the press keeps the average Christian layman aware of that. But the press and radio is not keeping the layman aware of the fact that behind these leaders are millions of men who see hunger stalking their families in the coming months. And that

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this policy. Certain unions in the CIO have become the favorite projects of the communist organization. A few of them, such as the Maritime Union and transport workers, are under almost complete communist control in their leadership ranks. The following is a list of the CIO unions that are known to be more or less under strong communist influence:

United Electrical and Radio Workers
International Union of Mill, Mine and Smelter Workers
United Farm Equipment and Metal Workers
United Gas, Coke and Chemical Workers
International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union
National Maritime Union
Transport Workers Union
American Communications Association (Radio and Telegraphy)
Marine Cooks and Stewards
United Office and Professional Workers
State, County and Municipal Workers
United Federal Workers
International Federation of Architects, Engineers, Chemists and Technicians
International Fur and Leather Workers
United Furniture Workers
United Shoe Workers
International Union of Fishermen
United Cannery, Agricultural Packing and Allied Workers

The total membership of these unions is over 1,500,000. Other large unions in the CIO such as the United Auto Workers, one of the largest unions in the world, have fought hard to keep communists out of their ranks.

An interesting angle is that Philip Murray, President of the CIO, is a devout Catholic and, while a strong supporter of the CIO program of cooperation with Russia, naturally has other attachments that would not yield readily to the completely materialistic philosophy that has so often dominated communistic planning.

Radicalism Not Strong

Thus it becomes apparent that there

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is the most powerful motive that urges men to action. That fact is more important for us to watch than the faults of labor leaders or of business leadership.

While the close-up picture is disturbing, we believe the long range view is completely optimistic. America is still basically a democracy, and the organized and unorganized interests of the common people will prevail for a sounder, more humane and more Christian economy. In the meantime, that change will be brought about slowly and perhaps painfully as men batter their way through the old walls and barriers of the past.

TODAY AND TOMORROW

Some of our war effort got badly out of perspective. While religious leaders, community authorities and even the FBI continue to warn of the bitter fruits of the mounting tide of delinquency, the situation is still considered a minor side issue by those responsible for the direction of the nation's effort. We are suffering now from a lack of vision that will mean a long hard readjustment in the coming days when thousands of boys and girls will have become men and women without the basic concepts of right and wrong upon which a civilized society must rest or disintegrate.

Russia, Britain and Us

The Other Side

The press has been flooded with atrocity stories about Japanese prison camps. There is every evidence that these reports of the brutal treatment of American prisoners are true, and certainly those in places of responsibility in the Japanese military system should be promptly and severely punished. But, as usual with war propaganda, only part of the story is told. Humane and kind treatment of American prisoners by Japanese authorities has also been reported, but these stories are seldom told and then are printed in inconspicuous spots.

American Catholic missionaries released in Tokyo told Robert Trumble of the New York Times, that, except for a few isolated cuffings and kicking and, by European standards, poor food, internees had fared well and their captors had been friendly. The camp interpreter, Yoshiharu Kanda, turned out to be a former classmate at the University of Washington of one of the priests. His sister and brother still live in Seattle. Kanda is looking for a job now. He has a letter of recommendation as an interpreter signed by three of the internees.

Mr. Trumble reported that Miss Lois E. Kramer, a missionary of the Evangelical faith who spent twenty-eight years in Japan, said: "We have been treated wonderfully. The Japanese have been kind gentlemen and we were treated exactly the same at various camps where we were interned. I love Japan and love my work. The people here have been good to me."

From the Philippines comes the dramatic story of a family of American internees who, with their two small children, were imprisoned at the outbreak of hostilities. One evening the father noticed that a Japanese guard was acting very strangely. The soldier would occasionally swing his left arm and hand down toward the ground back of him as if trying to point to something within the barricade. Frequently he'd look over his shoulder at the puzzled American father.

The guard finally walked on and the American internee, curious at such behavior, moved over to the barricade

Radicalism Not Strong

Thus it becomes apparent that there is no organized socialistic or communistic movement in America that threatens our way of life. What trend there is toward socialism is the result of a widening demand of the American worker and the American people for a larger share in the control of resources and a larger participation in the wealth created by utilization and exploitation of these resources. We have real reason to be assured that the American people do not like and do not desire communism or any like form of extreme socialism. But we have just as abundant reason to know that the average citizen will not long tolerate the selfish monopolistic capitalism that unfortunately characterizes some large areas of industry and finance. In between these extremes every Christian layman has an opportunity by thought, influence and prayer to guide America into an intelligent Christian "middle way"—retaining the best of capitalism and blending it with the new urge all men feel for a "more abundant life."

Two Continents

A study of illiteracy and illegitimacy figures for the Americas, North and South, reveals some amazing facts. In North America, illiteracy is conservatively estimated at 6 per cent, in South America at approximately 60 to 80 per cent; illegitimacy in North America is set at 2.4 per cent, in South America at approximately 25 to 50 per cent.

Historically both American continents were discovered and colonized at the same time. Any difference of opportunity or of resources that may have existed between them favored the southern lands. However, North America, settled predominantly by colonists from Protestant countries, prospered and developed a tradition of free democratic education, while South America was bound to reactionary Catholic attitudes toward general education and freedom of thought.

The contrast presented in these statistics on illiteracy and illegitimacy certainly tells a great deal as far as Protestantism versus Catholicism goes with regard to democracy.

wrong upon which a civilized society must rest or disintegrate.

Russia, Britain and Us

In the new diplomatic crack-ups over Russian demands in the Mediterranean and in the Balkans, the dangerous game of playing American ideals over against Russian realism which began at the San Francisco conference (see Between the Lines, July 2, 1945) continues. **It is a traitorous and deceptive pattern, the true nature of which is being kept from the American people.** Here is a brief outline of what has happened.

1. It is true that Russia has acted with ruthless brutality in Poland, Rumania, Hungary and elsewhere in eastern Europe. Factories have been plundered, machinery shipped to Russia, workers snatched by tens of thousands to be sent to Russia, rich land owners and bankers shot or imprisoned, as well as big merchants and some Roman Catholic leaders and any or all who oppose Russia's "new day" for eastern Europe.

2. We are supposed to forget that most of the Balkan states collaborated with Hitler and sent thousands of troops to fight against the Soviet, pillaging countless Russian towns, factories and villages. In plain words, Russia is rebuilding her economy as far as possible by stripping those who stripped her. Russia's centuries-old, hard-boiled, ruthless realism is being given full play. Of that fact there is no doubt.

3. In trying to make safe her frontiers against a repetition of the horrors of invasion, Russia is rooting out the last remnants of the old aristocracies of eastern Europe which have been traditionally anti-Soviet, were quick to collaborate with Hitler, and which have had the close support of London and Paris industrial and financial aristocracy since the Soviet revolution. In fact, the British and French millionaires who have owned and operated the oil fields of Rumania and the coal mines of Poland and Bulgaria have used the power of the Balkan aristocracy as their front line bulwark against communism. Russia is now thoroughly destroying the last roots of these industrial-land aristocracies which have been braced by western European anti-Soviet forces.

4. **British and French imperial armed action in Italy, Greece, and the Near East has in many ways been as ruthless and brutal against working class groups with Soviet sympathies as has Russian action against the aristocracies and big land owners. British treatment of Greece and India and French treatment of Lebanon lack little of being a match for Russia's treatment of Rumania or Poland—but all that has been suppressed as much as possible. American people aren't supposed to know about it.**

5. For 100 years Britain has considered the Mediterranean an English lake. Russia is determined to end that and to gain full access to the Mediterranean. The warm water ports of Odessa and Yalta are to be new outlets for Russian world trade through the Mediterranean and Gibralter to the Atlantic and to the East through Suez. (You will soon be hearing Moscow demands for revision of British-French monopoly control of the Suez Canal.)

How America Figures in the Conflict

The British and French imperialists do not have the armed power to withstand Russian pressure. Russian air power makes the British fleet look like tin cans on a shingle, Russian armies of 15 to 18 million men make any successful coalition of land forces in western Europe impossible. So the only technique possible is to **involve America** in the foreground of the disputes. London diplomats have cleverly done this through manipulation inside our State Department.

The State Department.

Keep in mind the fact that our State Department is a force separate from the White House or Army and Navy. The State Department is a big, some-

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The guard finally walked on and the American internee, curious at such behavior, moved over to the barricade where the Japanese had stood. There he found a small package containing a can of condensed milk. In a night or two the guard and father again made contact, and for the length of internment that particular Japanese guard, at the risk of his life, helped keep a little family from the brink of starvation. Later disclosures revealed that the Japanese soldier was a Christian. Many similar reports have reached America, especially through missionary channels.

We are not asking that one ounce of guilt or punishment be withdrawn from those responsible for atrocities. We are, however, interested in having the **whole truth** reported, such as the fact that many Japanese, who are Christian, hate their own military and have shown repeatedly, at the risk of their own lives, the quality of their faith.

Yale Proposes Return to Religion

Recognizing our need for spiritual regeneration, authorities at Yale University are urging the establishment of a strong department of religion. A study made by a committee of ten at the request of President Seymour indicates the need for the development of greater spiritual and ethical values among the student body and urges that the university encourage in students the sense of responsibility for upholding spiritual values, not to forward any single philosophy or creed but to seek the truth. A significant comment in the committee's report stated that religion is so important an aspect of human life that a university which neglects to provide the best obtainable instruction in religion is not doing its duty.

"If Yale is looking for a venture which will be acclaimed for its leadership and vision in the country and in the world we believe that this is the venture. Yale is committed, as is all the modern world, to a belief in the value of unprejudiced study of men's problems; it must therefore believe that such a study of prayer, faith and deeds will be no less profitable than the same sort of study in economics and agriculture."

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what independent machine, reaching back through many generations and only partially influenced by even the strongest personalities in the White House or Congress. Due to the fact that a large percentage of important posts in our State Department have always been filled by men closely connected with America's great financial interests, State Department policies represent those special financial and industrial interests abroad more effectively and devotedly than they do the interests of the common American people.

Above all, don't forget that these great financial powers have worked hand-in-glove with the world monopolies of London and the Dutch and French empires.

America vs Russia

So America is pushed into the breach to lead the quarrel with Russia over interests which are close to the heart of British, French and Dutch millionaires and which are far away from Main Street, USA, where the blue and gold stars hang in the windows. It isn't righteousness and justice that our State Department is concerned with or we should be challenging the British and French in Greece, the Near East, India, Malaya and elsewhere. It is something dearer to the hearts of some men than justice or righteousness,—their bank books.

Russian moves for a greater part in the control of Japan stems from distrust of such policies. After all, Japan lies across Russia's eastern outlets and lifelines. If we allow Britain to continue to maneuver us toward war with Russia, do you think the Soviet will feel easy about our possession of a huge fortress and air base at her doorstep? Would we be undisturbed if the situation were reversed and Russia was occupying Bermuda, the Bahamas and Cuba—or the Hawaiian Islands?

It is greatly to be hoped and is a matter for Christian prayers that London's Labor government will some day be able to free itself from the domination of the London imperialists in British foreign policy. It is understandable that the Laborites had to have unity until they felt firmly established, and the price of unity was compromise with the powerful Empire monopolists. May the price not prove too high, nor the compromise last too long.

Veterans' Groups

The struggle has already started behind the scenes for control of the new veterans' organizations.

Very few people realize that great American industrial and financial corporations started the American Legion and controlled its policies throughout, kept it conservative and anti-labor, anti-Russian, anti-New Deal as long as they could. The American Legion was organized behind locked doors by high ranking military men who, in civilian life, were representatives of large industries, corporation lawyers, etc. The charge has often been made and never answered that not one plain soldier or one ordinary sailor of working class rank sat in on the conferences that created the Legion.

The American Legion

George Seldes, in his book Facts and Fascism, presents documentary evidence that the big industries assessed themselves so many thousand dollars per organization to subsidize and keep control of the Legion. We don't ask the Christian layman to follow all the deductions Mr. Seldes makes, but no sincere seeker for truth can dodge the significance of these facts.

That the American Legion was used in many instances to fight labor reforms is an obvious fact. It was as late as 1937 that the Legion finally passed a ruling that legionnaires should not wear their uniforms while strike breaking. Of course such anti-labor activities varied over the country according to local situations and the personalities and attitudes of local leadership. But its force as an organization was directed against labor wherever possible. Remember that only one-fourth of the World War I veterans ever joined the Legion. For the above reasons, the great majority of veterans, who were workers, never joined the organization.

There are over 14,000,000 young men and women in America who will be eligible for the new veterans' organizations. It is inevitable that this group will become a most powerful force for progress or deterioration in America's tomorrow. Over 100 new veteran organizations are now competing for the veteran's attention. Many of these new groups are of the crack-pot variety—promoted by self-interest and playing up to the most selfish reactionary elements in the veterans ranks; some are of unquestioned sincerity. Here is a list of a few of these organizations:

Nationalist War Veterans of World War II, a Gerald K. Smith and Fred Kister (noted anti-Semitics) outfit with slogans like "American Veterans First" and "American Money for American Veterans." This group proposes to give each veteran $1,000 mustering out pay.

United Yanks, a Lamar Bailey group which split off from the American Veterans of World War II. United Yanks is an organization with a strong anti-labor, anti-Negro flavor and originates in Dallas, Texas.

St. Sebastian's Brigade, a Father Charles E. Coughlin set-up. The men are enrolled, at $3 each, by mothers, wives and sweethearts so that they may be included in the petitions Father Coughlin makes to St. Sebastian, patron saint of soldiers.

Protestant War Veterans, a strongly anti-Semitic, anti-Catholic organization which was incorporated in Washington in 1938 and is headed by non-veteran Edward J. Smythe, a defendant in the famous sedition trials.

Of the many groups now springing up there will arise some powerful veteran organization. Perhaps this time there will be enough sincere, Christian veterans to guide its destiny so that it may represent the interests of the little man in his own store, his own shop, farm and home and not become a force expressing the too often selfish interests of a few.

Relocation Centers Closing

The closing of the Japanese-American relocation camps on December 15 is creating severe problems both to the nisei themselves and to the authorities of the communities to which the evacuees will return. Tension on the west coast especially is running high and is intensified by the fact that the housing situation in many areas is acute. New York City has absorbed about 1,700 of the 55,000 evacuees already relocated throughout the country, and about 7,000 Japanese-Americans are estimated to have returned to California and more than 2,000 to other west coast areas. The pre-war Japanese and Japanese-American population in California totaled 90,000. Less than half of these are expected to return to the coast.

Church groups in Washington and Seattle have opened hostels for the temporary housing of relocating families. The nisei may stay at these hostels only until they can find permanent housing.

One unfortunate aspect of the returning of the evacuees to civilian life is the fact that those who cannot immediately make arrangements for resettlement and who, therefore, hesitate leaving the relocation camps will be arbitrarily evicted, will lose the grant given those who leave voluntarily and will be returned willy-nilly to their former places of residence without regard to the present housing and employment situation there. Few of the evacuees have any money left, jobs and tools have disappeared and the atmosphere in many localities is hostile.

On the other hand, many Caucasians, generally church people, are treating the returnees in a friendly and cooperative manner. One Japanese-American Christian said: "No one of us has been seriously hurt by a Caucasian in southern California since Pearl Harbor. We have been taken care of with a good deal of fairness, a spirit which we could find in no other country. We want you who are citizens to know that we will never forget the fact that we have faith in democracy and in you."